Assessment of Visit India Campaign

99. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any interim assessment has been made regarding the success of the Visit India year campaign and if so, what are the main conclusions drawn;

(b) whether any proposals are being considered to draw the attention of foreign and Indian tourists to places of historical and scenic importance in all parts of the country in view of the indifferent atmosphere existing in many conventional tourist spots; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to the Gulf War, there has been a sharp decline in the number of tourist arrivals. However, the tourist traffic is expected to pick up with the onset of the tourist season shortly.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Apart from 18 extension circuits and 46 fairs and festivals which have been identified all over the country for promotion, the Ministry is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for strengthening of tourism infrastructure at identified places. During the year 1990-91, an amount of nearly Rs. 28.90 crores was sanctioned for this purpose.

Modernisation of Thiruvanathapuram Airport

100. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the progres of projects related to the Thiruvanathapuram International Airport in the year 1991-92 in order to increase its capacity to receive all types of modern aircrafts, technologically and otherwise; and

(b) the new International Airlines with which agreements have been signed in relation to establishing their services through Thiruvanathapuram airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) At present Trivandrum Airport has a runway which is 9500 ft. long. This prevents it from receiving Boeing 747 and similar type of aircraft which require longer runway. International Airports Authority of India has identified the land required for extension of the runway to enable regular operation of all aircraft and will approach the Government of Kerala to initiate land acquisition proceedings. During the year 1991-92 work will continue on the extension of the apron and the expansion of domestic terminal which commenced prior to declaration of Trivandrum as an International Airport.

(b) An agreement has been signed on 30-4-1991 between India on one hand and Oman, United Arab Emirates (excluding Dubai), Bahrain and Qatar, whereunder the designated airlines of the above Gulf States (*i.e.* Gulf Air) has been given rights to operate a maximum of 4 frequencies per week (1000 seats in each direction) to/from Trivandrum Airport.

Development Tourism in Bihar

101. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to develop tourism in the State of Bihar, particularly at the places of religious and historical importance in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and